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Apple Growing  
in  
Northwest Arkansas

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DELICIOUS

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Apple growing is one branch of the Fruit Growing industry that needs development. A larger production with better grading, choicer packs and co-operative marketing will insure a profitable future for the apple grower

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John M. Parker and Son  
Nursery Company

FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

NOT CONNECTED IN ANY WAY WITH THE  
"SO CALLED" PARKER BROS. NURSERY CO.



John Parker and Father Inspecting One-Year Apple Trees

Arkansas is rapidly building up a reputation as a fruit growing state. The phrase, "Arkansas, the Land of the Big Red Apple," has traveled far and wide. It has attracted attention to the "Wonder State" and has aroused interest that will ultimately result in the development of our fruit industries to a state of which we can only dream at the present time. The title of "Arkansas, the Land of the Big Red Apple," was earned by our own northwest section of the state. Our apple industry, large as it may seem to us, is possibly merely in its infancy. We still have within our area hundreds, yes, even thousands, of acres of as good apple land as you will find in the world.

### The Best Varieties

Many people are turning to apple growing who have had no previous experience in the work. One of their first questions is, "what is the best variety for me to plant?" The answer to this question has never been definitely agreed upon and probably never will be. As with stock, hogs, poultry and other farm products, there are various breeds, each with its own good qualities. So it is with the apple. Some varieties, such as the Arkansas Black, Mammoth Black Twig, Winesap and Stayman Winesap require a deep, rich soil. Others, such as the Ben Davis type, will give excellent re-

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sults on comparatively thin land. Our advice is to first know the quality of your land and then select varieties that are known to succeed on your types of soil. You may have various types of soil on your farm; then select the varieties according to the particular plot of soil on which you expect to plant them. The old time Red Ben Davis made the first real money for the fruit growers of this country. It bears well on any soil and will succeed with proper cultivation and spraying, as it requires less fertilizing than the varieties that are heavy feeders of plant food,

The Red Winesap, Mammoth Black Twig, Collins Red, Grimes Golden and Jonathan are some of the varieties that have proven to be reliable in this section. Many a man owes his success to some of these well known varieties. A number of valuable varieties have been introduced during the past few years, some of which have proven to be a success and some of these "high priced new varieties" are really not as good as the old well-tried sorts. The Stayman Winesap and the Delicious are two new varieties that are money-makers in most sections. The Black Ben or Gano bears well on almost any of our thin land, and where the land is inclined to be poor, will make more money than the Winesap, Stayman Winesap or Mammoth Black Twig. It can also be counted upon to bear full and regularly, something that cannot be said of all varieties.

### Fertilization

It is possible to double the yield of an apple tree by feeding it with plenty of plant food applied in the form of good fertilizer. Some years ago I stopped with a man who had planted an apple orchard of 10 acres on thin worn-out land. It might have been possible to produce 20 bushels of corn to the acre on this land under favorable conditions. In looking through this orchard, which was then three years old, I was surprised to see the remarkable growth which these trees had made. The growth of the limbs for that season would average about four feet. Such a growth on that sort of soil aroused my curiosity, so I asked the farmer if he had a patent on some secret process for forcing the growth. In reply to my question he revealed to me the hidden secret by which he made his trees show this remarkable growth. His orchard was on a slope sufficient for good drainage. About three or four feet above each tree he had buried a large bucketful of common wood ashes. The substance from these ashes had leached out and drained down around the tree roots, where it was taken up by the tree, with the results mentioned above. In all my experience and observation in the growth of fruit trees I have found common wood ashes,

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which are so often wasted, to be one of the best fertilizers for forcing tree growth. Never let wood ashes go to waste. They are worth at least a dollar a bushel in your orchard or garden. One quart of wood ashes placed around the trunk of a small tree will not only force a healthy growth, but it will protect the tree from borers and aphids as well.

### Preparing the Soil

Thorough preparation of your orchard soil is essential. The soil should be plowed deeply and well worked down so as to be in fit condition for ordinary farm crops. Plant rows 30 feet apart each way, 50 trees to the acre. However, I have seen trees that were planted 25 feet apart each way and 70 trees to the acre that have been making good for the past twenty years. It would not in my opinion be advisable to plant the larger growing varieties, such as Delicious, Stayman Winesap, Mammoth Black Twig and Collins Red closer than 30 by 30. It is best to give these trees plenty of top room and plenty of soil space to feed upon.

### Cultivation

It is essential to keep the soil in the growing orchard well cultivated so as to conserve the moisture during the dry spells and to keep down weeds that rob the soil of moisture and plant food. Supply your trees regularly with plenty of good fertilizer, such as wood ashes mentioned, and liberal applications of barnyard manure. Do not place the manure close to the trunks of the trees, as the feeding roots of the tree are at some distance from the trunk, depending somewhat on the age of the tree. In cultivating keep the land level, that is, avoid the formation of ridges and hollows in your orchard.

### Importance of Good Stock

No real farmer would expect to build up a profitable business with scrub stock. Yet the selection



Working Block of Young Apple Trees

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of good breeding stock is not quite as important as the selection of sound healthy trees for your orchard. Trees are grown, as you perhaps know, by fitting together a small twig, called scion, from a bearing tree of the variety desired, and the root of a seedling. This operation, known as grafting, is a scientific process. Unless the two are properly fitted together by a skilled and careful grafter, the two will not form a perfect union. Unless this union is perfect your tree is weakened and will never show the life and vitality that it should.



WINESAP

Not only is the fitting of the grafts important, but the actual growing of the trees in the nursery from these grafts is a work that requires intelligent experienced care. The selection of the soil has a great deal to do with the growth and after life of the tree. The planting, the cultivation and care of the tree at every stage of its development, from the "graft" to the finished tree ready for the orchard, is a process that affects the life and action of the tree when in after years it comes into bearing in the orchard.

### **"Crown Gall"**

Crown Gall is a common disease that will rob you of your orchard profits. It is easily recognized by a knotty formation at the union of the scion and the root. We quote from Mr. George G. Becker, chief state inspector, as follows:

"Perhaps 10 to 15 per cent of the apple trees in the average apple orchard are infected with this disease. The trees may look perfectly healthy in the orchard but they are practically always shy bearers, if they bear at all; and the average farmer goes on cultivating, pruning and spraying them year after year because they appear healthy. There is no cure for crown gall. Infected trees cannot be cured by treatment with chemicals, nor is the disease removed by cutting off galls or hairy roots. The disease extends well into the wood."



JONATHAN

The inexperienced sometimes notice the thick masses of fine roots known as "hairy root" and get the mistaken notion that the tree is well rooted when in reality it is suffering from an incurable disease. A tree that has even the slightest trace of crown gall or hairy root is more expensive in the long run if it were given to you absolutely free than a first-class, sound, healthy tree at \$1.00 each. It will cost you just as much to care for it as the good tree and will never give you a satisfactory return, if any at all. When you plant an orchard you are planting for a lifetime. The results you get depend more on the quality of the trees that you plant than it will on the care that you give them afterward. Plant the best trees you can get regardless of the price, and you will have made a good investment that will insure you profitable returns for years to come.



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